

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A method to ensure accurate geocoding of one or more locations in an asset tracking system, comprising:
 - a. providing a first characteristic of the location;
 - b. providing at least one other characteristic of the location;
 - c. determining if the first characteristic and at least one of the other characteristics identify a same location; and
 - d. allowing a geocode of the same location to be sent to one or more assets.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein determining includes:
 - a. inputting the first characteristic and at least one of the other characteristics into a GIS system of the asset tracking system; and
 - b. verifying that the first characteristic and at least one of the other characteristics are spatially near.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the first characteristic or at least one of the other characteristics is provided by an electronic source communicatively coupled to the asset tracking system.
4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the electronic source is a caller identification system.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first characteristic is one of an address, a set of cross streets, a zip code, a telephone area code, a latitude and longitude, or a phone number.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein the other characteristic is one of an address, a set of cross streets, a zip code, a telephone area code, a latitude and longitude, or a phone number, and wherein the other characteristic is different than the first characteristic.
7. A method according to claim 2, wherein the first characteristic and one or more of the other characteristics are spatially near when located within a same street block.
8. A method according to claim 2, wherein the first characteristic and one or more of the other characteristics are spatially near when located within a same zip code.
9. A method according to claim 2, wherein the first characteristic and one or more of the other characteristics are spatially near when located within a same area code.
10. A method according to claim 2, wherein the first characteristic and one or more of the other characteristics are spatially near when the first characteristic and the one or more of the other characteristics are within a set distance apart.
11. A method according to claim 10, wherein the set distance apart is measured in miles or fractions of a mile.
12. A method according to claim 10, wherein the set distance apart is measured in degrees, minutes, or seconds of latitude or longitude.
13. A method according to claim 1, wherein the asset is sent to the same location when the geocode is allowed in the asset tracking system.
14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the asset includes a mobile device to receive the geocode.
15. A method according to claim 13, wherein the asset includes a display device to show the same location.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the same location is not displayed on the display device until the geocode is allowed.
17. A method according to claim 1, wherein the first characteristic, a second characteristic, and a third characteristic are provided.
18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the geocode is allowed if the first characteristic and a second characteristic are spatially near and the first characteristic and a third characteristic are spatially near.
19. An asset tracking system that ensures accurate geocoding of location information sent to assets, comprising:
 - a. at least one communication network;
 - b. at least one mobile device coupled in communication to one of the communication networks, wherein the mobile device receives the location information for the asset;
 - c. a GIS system, wherein the GIS system ensures the accuracy of the location information by verifying that a first characteristic about the location and at least one other characteristic about the location are spatially near; and
 - d. an asset server coupled in communication to the communication networks and the GIS system, wherein the asset server sends a geocode identifying the accurate location information to the mobile device.
20. An asset tracking system according to claim 19, wherein the communication network is one of a radio network, a satellite communication network, a cellular network, an internet network, a LAN, a WAN, or a wireless LAN.
21. An asset tracking system according to claim 19, wherein the mobile device includes a communication device and a position finder.

22. An asset tracking system according to claim 21, wherein the communication device is one of a cellular modem, a radio transmitter and receiver, a satellite transceiver, or an internet router.
23. An asset tracking system according to claim 21, wherein the position finder is one of a GPS receiver, a local position receiver, or a LORAN receiver.
24. An asset tracking system according to claim 19, wherein the asset server includes at least one parser and a message switch.
25. An asset tracking system according to claim 24, wherein the at least one parser sends the location information to the mobile device.
26. An asset tracking system according to claim 19, wherein the GIS system is part of an operator's system.
27. An asset tracking system according to claim 19, wherein the GIS system receives the first characteristic and the at least one other characteristic from a customer.
28. A method to ensure accurate geocoding of one or more locations in an asset tracking system, comprising:
 - a. setting a level of confidence threshold;
 - b. providing a characteristic of the location; and
 - c. determining if the characteristic generates a level of confidence in a geocode that identifies the location above the threshold.
29. A method according to claim 28, further comprising allowing the geocode to be sent to an asset if the level of confidence is above the threshold.
30. A method according to claim 29, wherein an asset is sent to the location when the geocode is allowed in the asset tracking system.

31. A method according to claim 28, further comprising:

- a. providing at least one other characteristic of the location if the level of confidence is not above the threshold; and
- b. determining if the two or more characteristics generate a level of confidence in the geocode above the threshold.

32. A method according to claim 31, further comprising allowing the geocode to be sent to an asset if the level of confidence is above the threshold.

33. A method according to claim 32, wherein the asset is sent to the location when the location is allowed in the asset tracking system.

34. A method according to claim 31, wherein determining if the two or more characteristics generate a level of confidence includes:

- a. inputting the first characteristic and at least one of the other characteristics into a GIS system of the asset tracking system; and
- b. verifying that the first characteristic and at least one of the other characteristics are spatially near in the GIS environment.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein the first characteristic or the at least one other characteristic is provided by an electronic source communicatively coupled to the asset tracking system.

36. A method according to claim 35, wherein the electronic source is a caller identification system.

37. A method according to claim 34, wherein the first characteristic is one of an address, a set of cross streets, a zip code, a telephone area code, a latitude and longitude, or a phone number.

38. A method according to claim 37, wherein the at least one other characteristic is one of an address, a set of cross streets, a zip code, a telephone area code, a latitude and longitude, or a phone number, and the at least one other characteristic is different than the first characteristic.
39. A method according to claim 34, wherein the first characteristic and the at least one other characteristic are spatially near when located within a same street block.
40. A method according to claim 34, wherein the first characteristic and the at least one other characteristic are spatially near when located within a same zip code.
41. A method according to claim 34, wherein the first characteristic and the at least one other characteristic are spatially near located within a same area code.
42. A method according to claim 34, wherein the first characteristic and the at least one other characteristic are spatially near when the first characteristic and the at least one other characteristic are within a set distance apart.
43. A method according to claim 42, wherein the set distance apart is measured in miles or fractions of a mile.
44. A method according to claim 42, wherein the set distance apart is measured in degrees, minutes, or seconds of latitude or longitude.